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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Signs of new frictions are beginning to appear after a brief period of accommodation between the two countries.

[REDACTED] Soviet Ambassador Chervonenko has been seen meeting with conservative Czechoslovaks and that, as a result, his relations with Dubcek are cool. Rumors are current in Prague that Dubcek has criticized Chervonenko for his activities and has threatened to leave vacant temporarily the post of Czechoslovak ambassador to Moscow.

The Soviets, for their part, reportedly will not accept the Czechoslovaks' ambassador-designate, Vladimir Koucky. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Soviet Union views the liberal policies of the Dubcek regime as a threat to Soviet predominance in the Communist world.

In Prague, the journal of the official youth organization yesterday chided Soviet leaders in general for searching the Czechoslovak reform movement "for elements of imperialist ideological infiltration." The paper's comment apparently was in answer to a recent speech by a senior Soviet party official implicitly censuring Czechoslovakia. Another Czechoslovak paper criticized this official by name.

The verbal exchange gained momentum earlier this week when Moscow radio contradicted an editorial in the main Czechoslovak party daily concerning the international Communist conferences in Budapest and Moscow. Moscow's Pravda has since implicitly found fault with Czechoslovak liberals for acting against "the interests of the working people."

Neither side, however, appears willing to escalate the polemics to an official level. The continuing changes in Czechoslovakia and the growing independence of the Dubcek regime may yet bring a harder Soviet reaction, and the relatively muted dispute may become more serious. [REDACTED]

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